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Abortion, health and gender stereotypes

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Propositions belonging to the PhD thesis

**Abortion, health and gender stereotypes:
A critical analysis of the Uruguayan and South African Abortion Laws Through
the Lens of Human Rights**

Lucía Berro Pizzarossa

20 May 2019

1. Using human rights to analyse abortion is indispensable to bring into the spotlight a great deal of suffering which goes largely unseen and is inadequately understood as human rights violations.
2. Understanding sexual and reproductive health and rights as historical creations can devise informed laws and policies that are more likely to succeed.
3. The requisites set by the South African and Uruguayan abortion laws are not 'requirements' or 'steps', but rather barriers to access that configure human rights violations on and of themselves.
4. The crucial need for a critical analysis of abortion laws lies not only in the power of the law to regulate but in its power to create truth.
5. The parliament debates reveal stereotyped images of people that seek abortion services that— rather than reflecting the true complexity and diverse experiences—are grounded in a perceived degree of deviance from gendered stereotypes, particularly those surrounding motherhood.
6. The legal discourse in the South African and Uruguayan abortion laws is paradoxically 'pro-choice' and 'anti-abortion'.
7. 'Taking human rights seriously' demand that we de-medicalize, de-criminalize and de-stereotype abortion laws.
8. "Abortion is the fulcrum of a much broader ideological struggle in which the very meanings of the family, the state, motherhood, and young women's sexuality are contested" Rosalind Petchesky.
9. "[I]n the midst of putative peace, you could, like me, be unfortunate enough to stumble on a silent war. The trouble is that once you see it, you can't unsee it. And once you've seen it, keeping quiet, saying nothing, becomes as political an act as speaking out. There's no innocence. Either way, you're accountable" Arundhati Roy.
10. "You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time" Angela Davis.